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The Hon. Mrs. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" Therefore, Sir, I move the amendment to the draft rule.

" Under Schedule V to section 249 of the Madras District Municipalities Act certain items are not included among the items for which licences will have to be taken. Those items are—Manufacture of arrack, manufacture of carbon-dioxide and methylated spirit. Schedule V of the Madras District Municipalities Act does not admit giving licences to places where these articles are manufactured. Therefore this schedule has to be amended to include these three items and hence I move that the amendment may be approved."

The amendment was put and carried.

The Hon. Mrs. LAKSHMIPATHI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' *That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section* 201 (1) *of the Madras Local Boards Act,* 1920 (*Madras Act XIV of* 1920), *amending Schedule VII to that Act be approved* :—

Draft Rule.

" *In the said schedule, after clause* (1), *the following clause shall be inserted, namely* :—

' (11) *brewing beer ; manufacturing arrack or other spirits containing alcohol (whether denatured or not), by distillation ;* ' " '

" The same arguments put forward in the case of motion No. I above will be applicable with regard to this amendment also. The intention of the amendment is to enforce health conditions and therefore Schedule VII of the Madras Local Boards Act has to be amended so as to include these three items so that licences could be given for the manufacture of alcohol, arrack and carbon-dioxide. I therefore move the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

5-15 p.m.

IV. APPEAL BY THE HON. PREMIER.

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM :—" Sir, before this session concludes, I would like to make an appeal to this House and through the House to the public outside on the question of food. I spoke yesterday in the course of the debate something about the same matter, but now I am stating clearly the position in the Province about food.

" As the public are aware the Government reduced with effect from 4th August 1946 the rice portion of the ration to 8 oz. per adult per day for insufficient and non-producing rice eaters with great reluctance as the prospect of getting imported rice in sufficient quantities to maintain the 10 oz. rice ration was uncertain. It was my avowed intention at that time to restore the rice ration to 10 oz. as soon as circumstances permitted but the information since received shows that the prospects of imports of rice are not

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favourable and it is now considered extremely unlikely that outside help to the extent required will be forthcoming and in time even to maintain the 8 oz. ration. It has therefore become even more necessary than before to conserve the stocks as long as possible and make them last until the crop from the next main harvests become available in January.

" It has been suggested that the rice portion of the ration should be cut still further to 6 oz. for non-producing rice eaters but I am reluctant to take this step unless and until all other methods available have been tried and exhausted and our local resources have been fully mobilized. A proposal to purchase from America 75 lakhs of rice dinner packets as an emergency reserve at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs was considered. Calculations showed that the rice content in these packets was worth only about Rs. 2 lakhs and it was decided not to pursue the proposal of purchasing them on Government account as Rs. 24 lakhs was considered to be too heavy a price to pay for so little rice even to tide over the emergency. It seems to me much better that money should be spent for the benefit of our own producers rather than to purchase stocks from outside the Province at exhorbitant rates.

" All producers have now been allowed to retain the paddy required for their family consumption calculated at the rate of 1 lb. of rice per adult per day. If the rice portion of the ration is reduced to 6 oz. for persons who have to purchase their rations there will be great disparity between the quantity which the producers are allowed to have and the rice ration which is available to their neighbours. I feel sure that the producers themselves will be quite unhappy at the privation and suffering that will follow the reduction of the rice ration to cardholders to 6 oz.

" I therefore appeal to the producers of our Province to reduce their consumption of rice by recalculating their requirements for the rest of the year at 12 oz. of rice per adult per day. I appeal to them to reduce it still further if possible and to sell all the rice or paddy that they can spare to the agents of the Government. The response of the producers to the appeals made by me in the past to release the stocks have so far been magnificent but a further sacrifice is required of them now.

" As time is of the essence of the matter I request producers to make their stocks available immediately. In recognition of the sacrifice that this involves I have authorized the payment up to 31st October 1946 of a bonus of Rs. 2 per imperial maund of paddy of Rs. 3 per maund of rice over and above the price fixed for purchase from producers, inclusive of the bonus already announced of Re. 1 per imperial maund of short-term paddy delivered in September and October and up to the middle of November.

" I assure the producers that this sacrifice will be appreciated and that no action will be taken against them for stocks now sold even though they be in excess of what they were entitled to hold.

" The season promises to be favourable and there is no need for the producers to be apprehensive about the future. If they

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make this great sacrifice now we should be able to pull through these difficult months and may reasonably look forward to raising the rice ration as soon as the main harvest come on to the market.

"This is the appeal I want to make.

"Next I would like to make a statement on the village reconstruction programme adopted by the Government. Previously, I submitted, Sir, to the hon. Members of the House a scheme called the Khadi Scheme for organizing spinning and weaving in the selected firkas of the 24 districts. Even before it was printed and distributed here, it had been communicated to the General Secretary of the All-India Spinners' Association and through him to Mahatma Gandhi, because Mahatma Gandhi is the founder of this Khadi institution and he has been conducting the business through the All-India Spinners' Association which was separated from the Congress organization so far as its political aspect was concerned, long ago, at the time of the Belgaum Congress. He separated it because, in the Congress there came into existence two parties, the pro-changers and the no-changers. The pro-changers were those who believed in securing the freedom of the country through Council entry and the no-changers were those who believed in the orthodox programme of Mahatma Gandhi and the Satyagraha programme inaugurated by him. As between them, there arose a difference in the Belgaum Congress and issue was joined—it was a historic Congress—to measure the strength of both the parties, and it was decided in favour of Mahatma Gandhi. C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru were really defeated in the Congress but Gandhiji said: 'Although I have got a success here, it is not a sufficient majority and my two friends who are differing from me and who believe in their programme of Council entry should have the charge of this Congress. I hand it over to them. Let them try their experiment and until then I shall keep out of this Congress. I shall confine myself to the Khadi work.' Khadi work was non-political work. It was intended to be a non-political work to serve not merely the orthodox Congressmen but all men in the country without any distinction of caste, colour or creed. Since then he had been in charge of this Khadi department and constructive programme alone leaving the political programme to the other leaders. It was like that that this Khadi was started by him, was promoted by him and had been maintained by him under various and difficult circumstances; because the then Government were not viewing this Khadi movement with any favour; and it has survived until now. And now it so happens that Congressmen have come into office. Therefore this Government desires that this Khadi department should become a department of the Government because it had been maintained as a non-political organization and there can be nothing of politics in the Khadi department. Cloth is a thing that is required by all and therefore we thought, although we conceived of this idea and framed a scheme and presented it before this House and the other House and everybody has approved of it, we thought that we should send it to the

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General Secretary of the All-India Spinners' Association and to Mahatma Gandhi himself. They have approved of this scheme though not in entirety; the subject was considered in two parts. The first thing is relating to Khadi spinning and weaving. That is exclusively a department under the control of Mahatma Gandhi. Becaues it was he who was responsible for the whole thing; he is the expert competent to give the best possible advice. At the same time, the other village industries indicated in the scheme and which would be introduced into those villages and firkas were also presented to them. I take it, Sir, that the village industries scheme relating to all other items than spinning and weaving have been circulated to hon. Members of this House.

" Sir, the scheme regarding other cottage industries is a very important one and it has been printed and circulated. I promised that before the session closed the scheme relating to other cottage industries also would be placed in the hands of hon. Members and it has been done. If you go through the whole scheme carefully, you will see with what attention it has been prepared, at how much cost and how much labour is involved and how all the departments of this Government will be undertaking the task of developing not the wholesale and larger industries, but the cottage industries portion of it, how they will be taking it into those village firkas and how they would be having a drive to enable people to adopt them and carry on their work to supplement their income; because, village cultivation has not been leaving enough margin for the cultivators. It was the cottage industries in the past that enabled them to carry on and live a decent ilfe. Now all those cottage industries have disappeared from the country. The proposal is to revive those industries where they had become extinct and where there are no industries, new industries should be introduced. Even as they are, the villagers have not become completely extinct from the face of the earth; still they are living, they are living with bone and skin on their bodies. You will find a carpenter labouring hard to repair a plough or to make a small repair here and there. The whole thing will be changed if these industries are introduced. As soon as they are introduced, the village carpenter will be making not only the old customary things, he will be making things that can be purchased now only in Madras at a great cost. All these things they will be able to produce. The man who is making the ordinary country shoes in the villages will be producing shoes that can be found only in Madras and produced only at a high cost in the Madras City, in the Government Industries department or some other department, where the so-called skilled labour is being utilized. This will be done not only with regard to these two industries but the blacksmith's business also. All the departments will take a new shape altogether within a very short time after these industries have been planted there. It is with that object that this village industries scheme and other items have been prepared. I do not propose reading my written speech that is printed on the first two pages, of this book. It says how it is intended to improve the condition of agriculturists and how specially skilled men will go into the field and take up the

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work and start work. I have prepared this scheme and it is placed in the hands of hon. Members of this House.

"So far as the approval of Mahatma Gandhi is concerned I would like to read a short statement to avoid a free talk on the matter as I did in the other House. What exactly happened and how this is approved I am pointing out here.

Madras Government's Khadi Scheme.

"In the scheme, printed copies of which were circulated to Members of both the Houses of the Provincial Legislature, during the recent Budget Session, it was pointed out that the scheme would be worked in close co-operation with that non-political organization, namely, the All-India Spinners' Association, which has indisputably the best record in khadi work and which has had the longest experience of such work in various parts of the country. Before according their final sanction to the scheme, the Government, therefore, decided to seek the advice of the two most eminent persons connected with khadi work, namely, Sri Krishnadas Jajuji, the Secretary of the Association, and its President, our revered Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the khadi movement. They have been good enough to give us their advice, after fully discussing the details of the scheme with our Provincial Textile Commissioner. The gist of their advice is that it is desirable to separate the scheme into two parts, intensive and extensive. The intensive part of the scheme, which will aim at securing self-sufficiency in regard to cloth in terms of khadi, is to be confined to specially selected compact areas in which khadi has already made substantial progress, and in which, therefore, the self-sufficiency ideal can be attained very quickly. The work in these selected areas will be done on the direct responsibility of the Government, who will supply all the financial and other assistance required. Under the extensive part of the scheme also, which will be spread over a considerable area of the Province, valuable work in respect of khadi is to be done, but it will be confined to preparatory work on the lines, which I will indicate presently, and to giving, in consultation with the All-India Spinners' Association, all possible governmental assistance to approved organizations engaged in the development of khadi, such assistance, not involving however, financial responsibility for the Government. The local manufacture of charkas and other khadi implements, supply of wood and cotton against payment of full value by the approved organizations, are among the items in respect of which such assistance can be given.

"The Government have wholeheartedly accepted this sound practical advice, and propose to finalize their khadi scheme accordingly. The division of the scheme into two parts, as just mentioned, will enable us to achieve rapid progress in the most hopeful areas, at the same time preparing the ground for a large extension of the scheme before long to other areas, under conditions which would guarantee quick success in those areas also.

"The intensive part of the scheme will be confined to a strictly limited number of compact areas in different parts of the Province. It is hoped to select, thus, in consultation with the All-India

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Spinners' Association, not less than three areas in the Telugu districts, three in the Tamil Nad region and one in the West Coast region. The detailed plan for working this part of the scheme will be prepared shortly at a Conference, which the Provincial Textile Commissioner has convened for discussions with the Secretaries of the three branches of the All-India Spinners' Association, functioning in the Province, and the scheme as finalized by the Government in consultation with the Association will be announced before the end of the month. As stated in a recent Press Note issued by the Government, it is hoped to inaugurate the scheme on the 2nd October 1946, the next birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the khadi movement.

" Subject to the areas selected being suitable for the rapid attainment of the self-sufficiency ideal, it is considered feasible to include in each selected group an appreciable number of villages with an aggregate population not exceeding 50,000. The whole-time staff that the Government will appoint under the scheme will be guided in their execution of the scheme by the experts in the field, namely, the All-India Spinners' Association.

" The extensive part of the scheme will, for the present, be tried in all the 25 firkas which have been already selected by the Government for the development of cottage industries and other comprehensive rural reconstruction work. (It may well be that some of these areas will be considered suitable for the intensive khadi work also.) As a vital and fundamental part of the scheme, free instruction in handspinning and weaving, together with the anterior processes, will be arranged in all educational institutions in the selected areas. Basic education with handspinning and weaving as the basic handicraft, will also be introduced in as many of these areas as possible. Adult spinning schools also will be organized.

" To secure the rapid development of khadi in the Province, to which the Government attach great importance, it is essential that large numbers of competent instructors and workers should be trained. For this purpose, the Government propose to take advantage of the All-India Spinners' Association's kind offer of co-operation, to run a suitable number of training centres in different parts of the Province. Stipends will be paid, to the extent necessary, to the persons selected for such training and the selection will be made, as far as possible, from among the teachers in the primary schools in the different areas.

" The development of cottage industries and the other items of the Government's Rural Reconstruction plan will also be carried on, in an intensive manner, in the areas selected for intensive khadi work.

" In this connexion, Sir, I may also mention that in consultation with Hon. Minister for Education, Sri Avinashilingam Chettiyar, I have drafted a scheme for basic education. It is being finalised and as soon as that is done, that scheme also will be presented to Mahatma Gandhi on the 23rd instant at Delhi, when some of us will go there to attend the All-India Congress Committee

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meeting. It will be presented not only to Mahatma Gandhi but also to Mr. Aryanayakam, the educational expert. After getting their approval and their instructions, the scheme will be started.

" Then, Sir, with regard to replanning of the University education, I mentioned sometime ago that we proposed to appoint a committee of experts. Dr. Amarnath Jha, ex-Vice Chancellor of the Allahabad University, who came to Madras recently has given his consent to serve on the committee of experts and help us. I have also received a letter two days back from Sri Radhakumud Mukherji, one of the ablest of the educationists, in which he has expressed his willingness to serve on the Committee and give us all possible help. Not only in this matter, but also in the matter of reconstruction work, he is an expert, he has written much and done much work and he has offered to help us.

" There is only one other friend whom I addressed and from whom a reply has not been received yet. There is some mistake in the delivery of the letters also. Radhakumud Mukherji wrote in his letter that he received my letter only a few days back and Dr. Amarnath Jha said that he had not received my letter at all, because he had been touring and did not go to his headquarters. But he gave his consent while he came here. Sir S. Radhakrishnan, the Vice-Chancellor of the Benares University, I have no doubt, will give his consent. With these friends and with other hon. Friends who will be included in the expert committee, we propose to start work with regard to the replanningg of University education also.

5-45 p.m. " Another scheme with regard to the formation of a University at Tirupathi has been drafted and it is in the hands of the Hon. Mr. Koti Reddi. As soon as he completes his examination, it would be sent to the Education Minister and other friends. In that scheme, Sir, we have proposed not to follow the ordinary university methods of the other universities. We have proposed to confine ourselves to the cultural aspect of the whole thing in that University having regard to the place selected for that and the future work that is to be carried on there,—of course that is another scheme so far as educational work is concerned. These are the things that have been attempted by us, and I must express my thanks to the hon. Members of this House for the way in which they have been co-operating not only with regard to the schemes about khadi and village industries, but with regard to every matter that has been coming up here, however much difference there might be in regard to ideals, whatever might be the criticism which they have been offering. We have nothing to complain about any of these things, on the other hand, we welcome the criticisms, we welcome the opposition. We gain much, we learn much through all these things. Therefore we have been able to declare to the world how this Madras Legislature, both the Lower House and the Upper House, are able to tackle any problem that might arise, how they are able to manage things without running about this side or that side, seeking help from all and sundry. Therefore one can be proud of the record of the last 4½ months—the fifth

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month I think we are running. We ourselves are not able to believe that we could cover so much ground. That has become possible only because of the devotion of every member of this Upper House and the other House also to the national work which he has before him. Therefore, Sir, I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of this House.

"I must not close without mentioning, Sir, how this House has been obliged, how all of us have been obliged, to you for the way in which you have been managing the business of this House. Some of us might not be able to see how business is to be done, how it is not easy to carry on the business of this type—it is not with reference to the number of items that one has to measure the capacity of the Chair. You have made me feel, let me tell you, Sir, that you were dealing with every item without any effort, without any trouble whatever as if you have been dealing with it for all time, giving opportunity for every one to do his duty without interruption. I cannot flatter you, Sir, in this respect. I am so pleased, Sir, that you have done really great service, that you have proved to the world also how responsible are the duties of this House; everything is done in this House in the same manner as it has been done elsewhere. All the formalities we have been going through and without this formality, the whole thing would not be complete. We are all indebted to you, Sir, we realize what the importance of the Presidentship of this Council is. I myself did not realize all that I realize now after this session, in which you have been called upon to get through all this business. If a conflict arose sometimes on some matter, even then you could solve the problem and you could set at rest everything. I am much obliged to you, Sir, thanks very much."

* Mr. PRESIDENT :—" Before I adjourn the House, I would like to place on record how thankful I am to all sections of this House for the most able and helpful manner in which they co-operated with me in getting through this very important sitting of the House. Hon. Members are aware that during the past five or six days, they have helped to put on the Statute Book various measures of far-reaching importance and great good to this country. And I am sure you will all join with me in offering our heartfelt felicitations to the Government which has brought forward these measures and which we all hope will work with only one aim, that being the common good of this country.

" Hon. Members are no doubt aware, and I am also aware that our first thanks in this House are due to the Opposition. You have all seen how the Opposition has been fighting, though a losing battle, all these days; yet they have shown to the world that they are really *nishkama karma* yogis. They don't care for the result, they want to do their duty. Whether the amendments are agreed to or carried or not, it does not matter a bit for them. Every good soul who strives on in this world feels happy over good work well done, irrespective of the results obtained. I therefore heartily congratulate the Opposition on the way in which they have been

carrying on their duty in this House, and I am sure all of you will agree that but for them, this sitting would have been very tame indeed. I also hope that they will continue to carry on their business, though it must be really very depressing for any person to know time and again that though he brings forward all the arguments he is capable of, they do not pass the portals of this House. In fact, I really expect the Government will take note of the opinions that have been expressed in this House, that the absence of the other house seems to have a very damping effect on the Opposition. This thing has been agitating my mind also, whether to keep both the Houses going on at the same time or to summon this House after that House has finished its business. I have had some discussions with some of the hon. Members here, though I could not do it with the Members of the other House. Considering the opinions that have been expressed in this House, it looks as if it is better that the other House also sits, so that at least the Members on the Opposition side do not form the impression that their amendments are not accepted because the other House is not sitting. At least to give them satisfaction it is better that that House is allowed to sit till the sitting of this House is over. As it is, we are initially under a disadvantage. Whenever a Bill comes from that House to this House, the objection is there that the hon. Members of this House have not got sufficient notice of the amendments and the other things done in that House, so that they can carefully and conscientiously go through the Bill and give valuable help in the discussion that is expected to come up in this House. I would only like to impress upon the Government to consider how they could co-operate with us in trying to see that a proper feeling, a proper atmosphere and a proper impression is created in the minds of Members of this House, that their efforts do not go in vain because of the simple fact that the other House is not sitting.

"I may also mention to hon. Members that I have just made an announcement about the Rules Committee that has been formed. I am sure this subject will come up before the Rules Committee; and I expect they will give us their valuable advice on this matter. Meanwhile, if I may, I would like to make a suggestion to the Government that in all important matters, they will do well to follow the procedure which was adopted in the previous Government, of appointing a Joint Committee of Members of both Houses to consider the measures before they are introduced into the House, or at the time of the consideration stage. A joint committee of both Houses will certainly help Government with their advice in this respect. I am sure the hon. Premier and hon. Ministers know what amount of wisdom and experience there is within the four walls of this House and I sincerely hope and trust they will take full advantage of whatever these Members are prepared to give to help the administration. I am quite certain that none of the Members here, not even Mr. Farookhi Sahib who is such an uncompromising opposer of Government, wants to hinder the work of this Government. They will certainly like to help the Government in the very strenuous task that lies ahead of them. I therefore sincerely

trust that these remarks which I thought I should make will certainly deserve the weight they are entitled to at the hands of the Government.

"Next, even without the hon. the Prime Minister paying such high compliment to the House and to me, I was wondering at the way in which he was carrying on. You all know what a strenuous time he had in the other House; and you all know how he stuck on to his post and his work. The perseverance, the energy, the dogged effort that he puts into everything that he does is well worth emulation by persons who are less aged and younger than he. I won't perhaps be letting out a secret if I tell you that I heard in these two or three days he was not even in a fit state of health to come and sit in this House. Doctors were seen to attend on him, to go in and out of his residence, and yet we never felt that the Premier had neglected this House or shown disrespect to the hon. Members of this House. I therefore wanted, even without the statement that has been made by the Hon. Premier, to tell the Members how grateful we all must be to the way in which he has been carrying on this enormous burden upon his shoulders. And it is really a matter for sincere congratulation that this Province is blessed with his Premiership. I do not want to make a much bigger speech because I do not want to convert this into a platform. What all I have said, believe me, comes from my heart. And if I have shown myself during the latter part of the discussions, at the very end of it, a little short-tempered or a little annoyed at the prolongation of the discussion, you will certainly excuse me for such departure from the etiquette and the courtesy that is due to the Members. Hon. Members may take it from me, it goes much against my grain to control any speech or to say 'no' to any Member who wants to make a speech; but I hope and trust you will also realize that we are all working under certain regulations and restrictions, not the least of which is time. To-morrow is Sunday, I could very easily have continued this discussion on Monday, but I am sure that some of the mufassal members would have cursed me if I had done it because I know during the past two or three days how some of them have been feeling. So, if I wanted to keep the discussion within bounds, it is because I am more concerned with the welfare and the convenience of all Members, and my personal convenience is certainly the least concern, because I have no convenience at all in the matter. I am here for that business and I am prepared to sit in this Chair as long as you all want me to. So, hon. Members will please not misunderstand me if there has been any departure from the courtesy that is due to the Members, and I also hope you will sincerely extend the same kind of co-operation as long as I sit in this Chair.

"Hon. Members, I thank you once again for the way in which you have conducted your business at this sitting, and I now announce that this House stands adjourned *sine die*."

The House then adjourned *sine die*.